



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10 HANFORD/INL PROJECT OFFICE
309 Bradley Boulevard, Suite 115
Richland, Washington 99352

October 31, 2007

Gabriel Bohnee, Director
Environmental Restoration and Waste Management
Nez Perce Tribe
P.O. Box 365
Lapwai, Idaho 83540-0365

Re: Comments on 118-B-1 Burial Ground Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD)

Dear Mr. Bohnee,

Thank you for taking the time to comment on the 118-B-1 burial ground ESD; we appreciate your concerns. First, let me take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am the new Remedial Project Manager at the EPA Hanford Project Office, and I am taking over project management of the 100 B/C Area from Dennis Faulk.

There were two main concerns brought forward in your letter: 1) the levels of tritium in the soil and how it will affect groundwater and 2) the cost of institutional controls. The level of tritium in the soil is measured in pCi/g, and this does not directly translate to pCi/l of groundwater. Modeling is needed to determine how groundwater will be affected by tritium in the soil. The groundwater sample at the borehole is 908 pCi/l, which is far below the maximum contaminant level of 20,000 pCi/l. As for the cost of the institutional controls, this will be done in conjunction with other institutional controls that will be in place at Hanford. The cost for institutional controls at 118-B-1 will be much less than the cost of removal, which is estimated at \$16 to \$17 million. As you are aware, this is an interim action and there will be more data collection and analysis as needed in the remedial investigation and feasibility study to ensure protection of human health and the environment in the final Record of Decision.

For your convenience, I have included the final ESD for the 118-B-1 waste site. If you have any further questions or comments, or if you want to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to call me at 509-376-5466 or email me at buelow.laura@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura C. Buelow".

Laura C. Buelow
Project Manager

Enclosure

cc w/out enc: Chris Smith, DOE
John Price, Ecology
Admin. Record: 100 B/C Area
100-B-C-1

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